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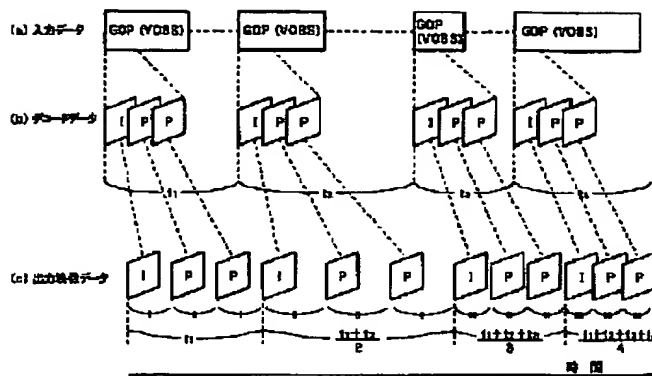
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TITLE : IMAGE DECODER AND IMAGE
DECODING METHOD



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an image decoder or the like which outputs smooth video data at the time of special reproduction such as fast forward and reverse reproduction.

SOLUTION: Data in a VOB (video object unit) unit is intermittently supplied to a video decoder of a DVD reproducing device at the time of fast forward or reverse reproduction. Only three I or P pictures (intra-frame coding image data or inter-frame forward predictive coding image data) from the first of each VOB are decoded. The decoder outputs I or P pictures which are decoded to memory for more than three based on the control of a controller. In the case of fast forward reproduction, it outputs in order of time, and in the case of reverse reproduction, it outputs in order that is opposite to decoding order. Also, it measures the time when the VOB passes through a demultiplexer that is on a preceding stage, balances the output interval of each picture and outputs. That is, because three pictures are outputted to each VOB, a picture is outputted every 1/3 time of a mean passing time of the VOB.

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